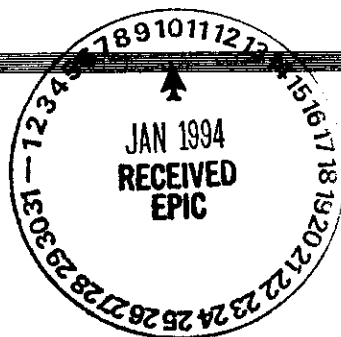


START

0033395

Tri-Party Agreement



Contact: Mike Talbot, USDOE
(509) 376-7501
Dennis Faulk, EPA
(509) 376-8631
Jerry Gilliland,
Ecology
(206) 407-6149

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PUBLIC SCOPING PERIOD BEGINS FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION DISPOSAL FACILITY PROPOSAL

Richland, Wash., January 10 -- The U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) are asking for public input on a proposal to build a new Hanford facility to receive cleanup wastes.

The proposed Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility would provide centralized capacity for the burial of up to 30 million cubic yards of low-level radioactive waste, hazardous and mixed waste collected from the Hanford Site. The facility is proposed to be located between the 200 East and 200 West area near the center of the Hanford Site.

"We hope this facility will be an example of successfully combining applicable state and federal regulatory procedures and significant early public involvement," said Dan Silver, Ecology assistant director for waste management. "This regulatory streamlining will help focus public attention on the entire Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility and allow agencies to use their resources and time efficiently."

"Timing for construction and operation of an Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility is critical to the start of cleanup of 100 and 300 Area operable units," said Doug Sherwood, EPA Hanford Project Manager.

The ERDF facility is required to be operational in September 1996 under terms of the new draft Tri-Party Agreement. To meet this schedule, construction of the facility must begin by October 1994.

A Regulatory Package will be prepared by the USDOE to document and authorize the facility. The regulatory package will consist of a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) proposed

(more)

PUBLIC SCOPING PERIOD BEGINS FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION
DISPOSAL FACILITY PROPOSAL -- (add one)

plan, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Corrective Action Management Unit permit application, technical appendices, and documentation of where National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) requirements are satisfied. The USDOE intends to prepare the Regulatory Package and ask for public comment by June 1994.

A public scoping period has been scheduled for Jan. 10, 1994, through Feb. 8, 1994. Public input will be taken at scoping meetings to be held in Richland and in Seattle.

RICHLAND

Tuesday, January 25
Shilo Inn
50 Comstock St.
Room: International I
7:30 - 9:30 pm

SEATTLE

Tuesday, February 1
Seattle Center
Center House
Conference Room "G"
7:00 - 9:00 pm

Written comments on the scope of the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility regulatory package and requests for information should be directed to:

Bryan L. Foley
U.S. Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550 MSIN A5-19
Richland, WA 99352

Information can also be requested by calling the Hanford Cleanup toll-free line at 1-800-321-2008.

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